

BUDGET / FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

Monday, February 8, 2010

Mt. Hope High School Cafeteria

Present

Subcommittee: William OjilDell (Chair), Paul Brule (5:44) and Karen Lynch

School Committee, Administration and Staff: Denise Arsenault, Diana Campbell, Marjorie McBride, Paul Silva, Melinda Thies, Mario Andrade, Pauline Silva and George Simmons

Guests: Bill Roche of First Student

Bill OjilDell called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Karen Lynch motioned to approve the minutes to the January 12 and January 25 meetings; Bill OjilDell seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 2 to 0.

Transportation Contract

Bill O'Dell voiced three concerns about contract compliance:

- 1. Lack of proper numbering / tagging of all busses**
- 2. All busses must be no older than seven years ;V some busses in the current fleet are ten years old**
- 3. Cameras not installed on all busses**

Bill Roche responded:

- 1. Numbering - He was not aware of an issue with the numbering; it can be easily rectified; he will look into it.**
- 2. Age of busses ;V He believes this stems back from the original East Bay bid; each district received unique pricing; pricing was based on the maximum age of the busses; older busses were replaced over a period of a few years; he believes Jane and Jim Flahive had an oral agreement for rebates to the District of \$5 per bus per day for those that are older than 2001.**

Paul Brule arrived at 5:44 PM.

- 3. Cameras ;V Newer busses did not come equipped with cameras; cameras have been ordered and shipment is expected this week; they are hoping their staff will be able to install them; once the non-compliance was discovered, a monetary rebate agreement was reached.**

Bill O'Dell's issue is that the non-compliance with the cameras was not brought to the attention of the School Committee; he would like to see a mutually signed agreement. Paul Silva said we were charged 2008-09 rates, but there were no cameras in that year either; by the

time all the cameras are installed, it will be the end of the year; the price was based on a year that we paid for camera coverage but did not receive it; how does this satisfy non-compliance.

In response to Bill O'Dell, Melinda Thies explained the non-compliance was discovered when a request was received to view the tapes from a middle school bus on which a student incident occurred. Marjorie McBride stated we do not have amendments to the contract and suggested maybe legal action.

Bill O'Dell referred to Policy EEAC-R School Bus Safety Program, which defines an evaluation procedure of §1) Several administrators (at random) periodically will ride certain bus runs and report their findings to the Director of Administration, 2) Spot checks of all busses are to be made throughout the year by the bus contractor, director of safety and manager of business affairs, and 3) All school administrators will report immediately to the Director of Administration any school bus violations observed by them." Bill would like the language to be stiffened up and inspections by administration before the start of school. He officially asked Diana Campbell and the Policy Subcommittee to review all policies on busses to make sure this situation does not take place again.

Karen Lynch asked about the use of "dummy cameras" on busses. Bill Roche said some districts use them, but not Bristol Warren.

Regarding the contract, Melinda said we do not have a firm paper trail; we go out as a consortium, each district gets its own price; there needs to be some kind of documentation. Bill O'Dell feels the Committee must know where the issues stand with non-compliance. Melinda felt we need to contact the former Director of Administration. Marj McBride said we have no contract amendment; the lack of cameras is a safety concern; the maximum age of the busses was adjusted a few years back with Tony Murgo who advised busses up to seven years old was perfectly acceptable over five.

ACTION: Bill O'Dell stated that the will of the Committee is not happening and respectfully directed Administration to gather the following by the next Budget Subcommittee meeting:

„Í Find out why there was not compliance on the age of the busses and cameras

„Í Find out why and under whose authority agreements were made and why the School Committee was not involved,

„Í Get a copy of the RFP and the contract,

„Í Superintendent and legal counsel prepare a recommendation on the findings.

Diana Campbell would like to demand a change in the payments and a rebate for last year. Paul Brule feels we need to have the history; he is not as worried about the age of the busses as the lack of cameras. Bill Roche believes all cameras will be installed by the end of February vacation; eleven busses of the thirty-bus fleet are nine years old.

Marj requested a report from George Simmons on the status of the District-owned fleet of vehicles. Bill O'Dell asked George to report back in thirty days.

Bill Roche left the meeting at 6:14 PM.

Budget Development FY 2011

Pauline prepared a draft budget request that incorporates some cuts suggested by Administration, contractual commitments and increase in benefits costs; the result is a net increase in the budget request of 1.91%.

Revenue Projections: There has been a slight shift in assessments to the Towns (Warren is up a little). Projecting a 4.5% increase per Senate 3050 from the Towns, \$1,035,869 in cuts are necessary. Level funding from the Towns will require \$2M in cuts. Melinda commented that North Smithfield has been recently commended for beginning to pare down to where we already are; we have shown good stewardship of our finances.

MOTION: Paul Brule motioned to forward to the full Committee for a vote, the budget request as presented by Administration for the maximum increase of 4.5% as required by Senate 3050. Karen Lynch seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

High School Field Project

George met with the Maguire Group; their recommended design plan, for an estimated \$1.2M uses swales to bring excess water to the water shed areas. The other option, for \$2M, used pipes laid underground to carry the water to the Naomi street system; this system would require much more time for DEM approval. A retention pond could be installed, but George feels that would pose safety and maintenance issues; he believes the 18" gravel base under the fields will drain the water well enough; the gravel will be wrapped in a special cloth material to prevent erosion. Although not fool proof, this system will have the least amount of environmental impact. George will insist that a sewer line be laid under the fields to the street for potential future use. The next step is approval of the plans by the State, and then permitting. All this is covered in the expenditure previously approved. Melinda strongly advised caution; when we are cutting programs and supports to the students, you have to keep in mind those who you represent; if we must cut \$2M from the budget, sports will have to be cut; the centerpiece of the BEP is student achievement and the proposed funding formula change is bad for Bristol Warren. Denise Arsenault agreed. Marj said the Committee has always maintained the 2%. Paul Brule said we are not spending any more than what was already approved and we will finally finish the plan.

Guiteras Heating System Repairs

George Simmons reported Mr. Mancino is in the process of designing a plan to relocate the unit.

Mt. Hope High School Windows

George presented the plans drawn up by the architect which include solid panels on the bottom, a row of moveable windows, and the rest are permanent; all agreed, the option of using the existing framework is preferred. There is a mandatory pre-bid walk-through on February 18. Sixteen packets were picked up by contractors.

RISE Engineering iV Controls

George reported the only thing remaining to be done is the programming.

George has requested a price on low water alarms for all heating systems that would text an alert to either him or Dave Nappi; he would like Subcommittee approval as soon as possible after he receives the pricing. Bill O'Dell will schedule a quick meeting on February 22 at 6:30 PM.

Karen Lynch asked about the bubbles in the high school track; George said the repairs cost \$15,000; Roger Williams still uses the track for practices once or twice a week.

Adjournment

MOTION: At 6:55 PM Paul Brule motioned to adjourn. Karen Lynch seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

/ca